



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
02/23/2006 02:39 PM
EST

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: No construction of radio towers within the National Park

RECEIVED

HHC-01-P5

MAR 03 2006

P. 1061

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Hello-

i noticed this line in the newsletter on the new communications project: "The proposed project would update radio and fiber optic infrastructure throughout Tuolumne County, including potentially adding one new site within Yosemite National Park."

If that is an elliptical way of introducing the concept of the construction of a radio or cell tower on or near a peak within Yosemite National Park than I am strongly opposed to such an intrusion into the views and physical integrity of the park, even along the already compromised heights of Hetch Hetchy. Furthermore all trenching for the laying of fiber optic lines etc. must be along existing roadways, no shortcuts.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
02/23/2006 11:21 PM
GMT

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Yes to Tuolumne communications in YNP

RECEIVED
HHC-02-PS
MAR 03 2006
p. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Yes, Please go ahead and cooperate with Tuolumne County people in allowing important radio communications in YNP..

Radio frequencies do not cause harm to the wildlife. Security radio communications are essential these days.

Why not consider adding cell phone link(s) and repeater for YNP radios at the same location while you are at it?

I am confident that you and they can decide on a location and equipment that will not degrade the visual beauty of the area.

Thanks so much,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: communications update

02/24/2006 06:04 AM
PST

RECEIVED
HHC-03-PS
MAR 03 2006
p. 1 of 1
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

By all means, keep the communications system as up to date as possible.
Disasters elsewhere have shown the need for a viable, functioning means of
communication. [REDACTED]

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02/24/2006 06:20 AM
PST

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Hetch Hetchy

RECEIVED
HHC-04-PS
MAR 08 2006
P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

In regards to any infrastructure upgrades at Hetch Hetchy, my opinion is to abandon any activity there except to restore the area that the reservoir occupies to its original pristine condition. Tear the dam down. Please build a larger, better reservoir elsewhere. Thank you, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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#HC-05-PS

MAR 03 2006



[REDACTED]
02/24/2006 09:28 AM
CST

To: <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Hetch hetch

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

I don't know why you'd upgrade anything if the reservoir will be drained
[REDACTED]

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02/24/2006 10:49 AM
PST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Scoping comments on Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade

RECEIVED
HHC-06-PS
MAR 03 2006
P. 1 of 2
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

February 24, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

These are "scoping comments" on the Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project in Yosemite National Park.

It seems to me there are three categories of issues to consider:

1) The first issue relates to the goals of the communications upgrade project and the ways in which this project perpetuates the non-conforming use of Yosemite National Park for the water storage and hydroelectric facilities of the Hetch Hetchy facility. This facility has never been in compliance with the legislative and public goals and management direction for Yosemite National Park. Raw political power was used in the early 20th century to desecrate the Park in order to appease the commercial interests of San Francisco. The continuing presence of these facilities in the Park is a continuing insult to the democratic ideals of the United States and the stated goal of preserving the wild natural features of the Park, which is as firmly supported by the American people as any piece of legislation.

Therefore, although the Hetch Hetchy facilities are allowed to operate under law, that law is in contradiction to the goals of the Park Service and the people, and the Service should seek to minimize any activities that perpetuate this facility or make it more permanent than it is. In the long run, we should consider Hetch Hetchy to be a TEMPORARY non-conforming use of the Park, to be removed as early as practicable. For example, putting in new facilities at the undeveloped "Poopenaut Pass" site within Yosemite National Park, simply expands the footprint and impacts of this non-conforming use, when we should be seeking to minimize them.

The goal here should not be to maximize the convenience of the facility (Hetch Hetchy) operators, but to minimize its impact. Operational efficiency or cost-savings for the dam operators should NEVER be a goal of the Park Service. The Park Service's goal should always and only be "preservation of the natural resources", with minimization of ALL impacts from this non-conforming development. So, I believe that the system objectives need to be carefully considered in light of this over-riding preservation goal.

2) The second issue is permanent impacts from new towers and equipment shelters, plus any transmission lines, at currently undeveloped sites.

The first comment I have on this issue, is that the sites need to be properly identified. In the newsletter announcing the communications upgrade project, two sites are identified as "Burnout Ridge" on the Stanislaus National Forest, and

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"Poopenaut Pass" in Yosemite National Park. NEITHER of those place names exist on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographical quadrangle maps of the region, which are the official maps of record. The exact locations of these currently undeveloped sites need to be provided with reference to locations that are named on the 7.5 minute topo maps, such as "1 mile south of Poopenaut Valley" (just an example: I don't know where "Poopenaut Pass" is, but I guess it is near Poopenaut Valley, which is on the map).

Secondly, there should be a strong presumption AGAINST development of any undeveloped site in the Park for the Hetch Hetchy facility, which has NOTHING to do with promoting National Park goals, but is instead destructive of those goals of natural preservation and public enjoyment. Only a site immediately adjacent to a road, so it can be accessed without further land disturbance, should be considered. The facilities at the site should not be visible from any public road or trail or interfere with public recreational use of the Park. No wildlife habitat should be impaired, including migration routes or temporary uses.

Since I can't locate the "Burnout Ridge" site on the Stanislaus National Forest on a map, it is hard to say what the impacts of development might be there. If this site is part of a roadless area, then there could be serious impacts to natural values that must be considered. Again, visibility, recreation, and wildlife impacts need to be considered.

New construction on the Cherry Lake Dam site would appear to have minimal impact, as the dam itself has already obliterated all natural values at that location, and, unlike Hetch Hetchy, Cherry Lake is not a non-conforming use of the National Forest.

3) The third issue is "temporary" impacts from the construction and upgrade activities at the existing HHW&P sites and transmission lines. These include possible impacts on migratory or reproducing wildlife. These activities need to be carried out in a manner and at a time that does not disturb wildlife and, as far as possible, does not disrupt public recreational use of the Park and Stanislaus National Forest.

Please consider these comments when preparing your environmental analysis of the Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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HHC-07-P
MAR 03 2006
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
02/24/2006 12:43 PM
PST

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov,
comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus-groveland@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project

I have reviewed the Public Scoping Notice mailed to me. The proposed action appears to be reasonable and necessary. I have one suggestion that is not mentioned. Solicit cell phone company participation in construction of the communication towers. It may be in their economic/business interest to pay for the tower construction. This will save taxpayer dollars. Also, enhanced cell phone reception in the remote areas will make it faster and easier for the land users to notify emergency response personnel in the event someone is lost, injured or there is a fire or other disaster. Also, family and friends can notify land users in the event of an emergency at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed action.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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02/24/2006 07:30 PM
PST

To: Yose_Planning@nps.gov,
comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus-groveland@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: HHCS Upgrade

RECEIVED
HHC-08-PS
MAR 03 2006
P. 1061
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Sirs,

I wish to make a comment concerning the Hetch Hetchy Communication System Upgrade. Considering there are numerous projects within YNP that need to be addressed and funded, I don't consider this proposal very important unless it can be proven in the EIS that the upgrade will: 1) be of great and lasting benefit to the NPS and USFS with regard to improving communications, 2) installed equipment will not detract from the natural beauty of the park (i.e ugly cell phone towers), and 3) that this proposal is not just an excuse for HHW&P to spend precious funds on something that isn't really necessary in view of the fact that the O'Shaughnessy Dam isn't as vital to S.F. as it used to.

Thank you consideration of my comments.

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02/24/2006 08:18 PM
PST

To: YOSE_planning@nps.gov,
comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus-groveland@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project

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HHC-09-PS

MAR 03 2006

P. 1081

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

February 24, 2006

Dear NPS and USFS,

A couple scoping comments about your proposed Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project:

1) Years ago (late 80s / early 90s) i was doing snow surveys in northern Yose and the Emigrant Wilderness, and in foul weather our helicopter had to make an emergency landing on Cherry Lake dam. I read in your Feb 2006 Public Scoping Notice that you're planning new communications hardware on the dam. For the safety of those involved, you should consider not placing the hardware in any area that could cause problems during helicopter landings, emergency or otherwise.

2) Over the years, I've hiked all around Hetch Hetchy and Poopenaut areas. While i don't have time to attend your field trips, i just want to beg you to not go overboard in addressing your fears about crime and terrorism such that you adversely affect the high quality scenery in those areas. If the equipment can't be installed so that it's unobtrusive, just forget about it. We've done without the fancy electronics all these years, and you really haven't made any case that there is any "critical" need (as claimed in the scoping document) to add new communications sites.

Thanks for considering my views,

[Redacted signature]

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HHC-05-PS
MAR 03 2006

P. 1031

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
>

To: <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>

cc:

Subject: Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project

02/28/2006 06:00 PM
PST

I am writing to express my view on this proposed project.

I believe that nothing more should be spent on the electric and water supply utilities located at Hetch Hetchy. I believe that the damming of the Tuolumne River at Hetch Hetchy was a tragic mistake, one of the worst things we have ever done in any of our National Parks. And I believe that, as feasibility studies are being conducted into the prospect of removing the dam and restoring the natural river flow and valley, no further expenditures or "improvements" should be made.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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February 27, 2006

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HHC-11-P5

MAR 03 2006

P. 1082

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Hetch Hetchy Communications System
Upgrade Project
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

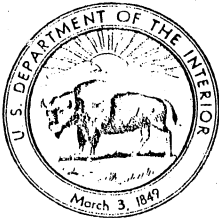
Dear Sir:

The destruction of Hetch Hetchy Valley within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park was a great disgrace, universally acknowledged as such, time and again over the years. It is not appropriate to solicit public response concerning projects that would perpetuate this wrong indefinitely.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

p. 282

OCT 26 1967

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Crane:

Thank you for your recent letter supporting the thought that some consideration should be given to the possibility of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.

That part of the park, once incredibly beautiful and a joy to behold by those who appreciate scenic wonders, need not necessarily be lost to the people forever. Maybe, with imagination, good will, and perseverance, we will be able to reclaim the National Park land under the water of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Only a fair-minded study will tell whether this is an idea whose time yet may come. We are aware of numerous obstacles. A practical, alternative water supply for the City of San Francisco and other communities which rely upon Hetch Hetchy Reservoir would have to be identified. That has been obvious from the moment the idea first took form. Electric power supply is an issue. So are the potentially large costs that would be associated with any reclamation effort.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to be in California to visit Hetch Hetchy, review the water and power systems, and talk with a range of interested parties. We in the Department intend to continue our fact-finding efforts and communication with interested parties.

We are encouraging widespread, citizen involvement so we will be better able to identify what the public wants, all relevant problems, and such feasible solutions as may exist.

I sincerely hope you will remain optimistic about this idea. I have read that Mark Twain once suggested that Yosemite "must be where God cast all his remaining treasures after creating the rest of the world." A place which merits that kind of observance should not be dismissed, notwithstanding the obstacles, without a chance to pursue whether there may be a realistic and responsible way to reclaim further its grandeur.

Sincerely,

Don Hodel

DONALD PAUL HODEL

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HHC-12-PS
MAR 03 2006
P.1531
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK


[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Upgrading of Hetch Hetchy communications systems.

Today there are NO life forms in the Hetch Hetchy Valley. Draining the lake and removing the dam is the only rational solution. The communication system then would NOT need upgrading.

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Mr. Tollefson: I just received the public scoping notice for the Hetch Hetchy Communications System, and want to thank you for including me as an interested citizen. I understand your reasons for upgrading the communications system shared by USFS and NPS. Less clear is the "partnership" between you and HHW&P and whether the Park and visitors benefit. The proposal appears to be drawn up mainly to benefit HHW&P and I wonder if NPS and USFS were included only because they manage the high spots identified by a communications system contractor. My main concern relates to tower site choice. The directives and objectives of NPS & USFS are different, but as you know, very specific. The official map & guide advises visitors "All Park features are protected. Do not deface or remove any natural or historic features." If only 3 sites for microwave tower/equipment shelter and access roads were on undeveloped areas, I'm sure less optimum but acceptable sites exist in undeveloped areas. Since regulations concerning construction in national parks and forests are quite specific and non-flexible, I feel that the responsibility for compromise should be with the communications company. Again, thanks for taking the time to listen to a part owner of Yosemite National Park.



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THC-14-PS

MAR 03 2006

P.181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
February 24, 2006

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn.: Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Sir/Madam:

I just received your February 2006 Hetch Hetchy Communications System Upgrade Project public scoping notice. Thank you.

By all means upgrade the communications system with the latest technology. I feel that project is very important.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

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